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The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 19 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and further to all our previous letters regarding the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, I should like to convey to you the following information:

This morning, acting in response to the decision of the occupying Israeli Government to conduct so-called local elections in the occupied Syrian Golan at the end of this month and as an expression of their categorical rejection of those elections and all attempts by Israel to impose its laws and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan, our people in the occupied Syrian Golan gathered in public squares and burned the voter cards that the occupying Israeli authorities had distributed in the towns of the occupied Syrian Golan. Moreover, they underscored their deep-rooted sense of belonging to their mother country, Syria, and that their position is in line with their long-standing rejection of the Israeli occupation, a position that they have held from the time the occupation began in June 1967. Our people in the occupied Golan have also rejected the annexation decision that the occupying Power took in December 1981. They consider that decision and all other measures taken by Israel, the occupying Power, to be null and void and without legal effect under Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 497 (1981), as well as General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, and all international norms and laws. Our people in the occupied Golan consider that the Syrian Golan has been and will continue to be Syrian and that it will be returned to the Syrian homeland, sooner or later. They will continue to resist the Israeli occupation and thwart all Israeli schemes and efforts to obliterate their Syrian Arab identity, which was passed on to them by their parents and grandparents.

The Government the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is an integral part of the Syrian Arab Republic and that its citizens and territory will be returned to the mother country, Syria. The Government also reaffirms

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that the occupying authorities do not have the right to impose their laws on the Syrian Arab residents of the Golan or to change the demographic composition and legal status of that integral part of Syrian territory. The Syrian Government calls upon the Security Council and the General Assembly to compel Israel to implement their resolutions in which they reaffirm that Israel must withdraw immediately from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and immediately cease its futile attempts to impose its laws and administration on the Syrian Arab citizens living under its abhorrent occupation, including the attempt to organize the farcical so-called local elections.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 38 and 55, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative